



All Saints, Little Casterton



St Peter & St Paul, Great Casterton

Four Churches



Together

All Saints, Pickworth



St Peter's Tickencote



**OCTOBER
2026**

Calendar of Events for October 2026

Day	Time	Activity	Place
1 st	9.00am	Parish Breakfast	Garden Centre
	7.00pm	House Group	Harvard
2 nd	10.00am	Toddlers	Church Hall
3 rd			
4 th	10.30am	Holly Communion	Great Casterton
	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
5 th			
6 th			
7 th	10.00am 10.30am	Celtic Prayers Community Coffee	Great Casterton Church Hall
8 th			
9 th	10.00am	Toddlers	Church Hall
10 th			
11 th	10.15am For 10.30am	Café Church	Great Casterton Church Hall
12 th			
13 th			
14 th	10.00am 10.30am	Celtic Prayers Community Coffee	Great Casterton Church Hall
15 th	7.00pm	House Group	Harvard
16 th	10.00am	Toddlers	
	6.30pm	Quingo Quiz	Church Hall
17 th	12.00 Midday	Saturday Live A Talk by Alan Gray 'Umpiring at Wimbledon'	Great Casterton Church
18 th	10.30am	Holy Communion	Great Casterton
	9.00am	Holy Communion	Little Casterton
19 th			
20 th			
21 st	10.00am 10.30am	Celtic Prayers Community Coffee	Great Casterton Church Hall
22 nd			
23 rd	10.00am	Toddlers	Church Hall
24 th			
25 th	10.30am	Morning Praise	Great Casterton
	9.00am	Holy Communion	Pickworth
26 th			
27 th	7.30pm	Parish (Parson's) Pints	The Crown
28 th	10.00am 10.30am	Celtic Prayers Community Coffee	Great Casterton Church Hall
29 th			
30 th	10.00am	Toddlers	Church Hall

FOUR CHURCHES NEWS – SEPTEMBER 2026

Parishes of Great and Little Casterton, Pickworth and Tickencote

October is the first month of the academic year for college and university students. London in the 1960's was an exciting place to be for an 18 year old student coming from 'little old Hereford'. Mary Quant, the Beatles' songs along with hits by Jerry and the Pacemakers, Michael Caine and 'the Ipcress File,' concerts at the Festival Hall and The Royal Albert Hall, and Leicester Square for 'Lawrence of Arabia' and 'the Night of the Generals' with Peter O'Toole are just a selection of my experiences. Sir Winston Churchill could be seen from the Public Gallery when he sat in the House of Commons. Churchill did not speak but was present during Debates.

Then in January the death of this Senior Statesman was announced. I decided that I would travel into London to watch the funeral procession as it progressed through the streets to the service at St Paul's Cathedral. Early that morning I took a bus from my college in Camberwell to Tottenham Court Road to the YMCA. Here, a school friend was staying during a gap year. She agreed to come with me. After a good breakfast she and I caught the bus to Trafalgar Square. The crowds were dense.

After receiving advice from a friendly Policeman, we walked to the church of St Martin's in the Fields. There in its courtyard was a line of metal dustbins up against some iron railings. Standing on the bins and holding onto the railings we could look down a side street, over the crowds and could watch the procession, its colour, the soldiers, the military bands, and the coffin itself draped with the Union Jack. Then quickly we went back to the YMCA and watched the service in St Paul's Cathedral on a large black and white television in a room packed with people. It was not the same: we had been there.

Chartwell in Kent, Sir Winston Churchill's family home, is open to the public, owned by the National Trust. A small book of his speeches and memorable quotations can be bought in the shop. Quotations are also on display in each of the rooms and in the garden. Words were full of common sense, which seem to be lacking in the last 10 years with their seven Prime Ministers. Two thousand years ago the words and teachings of Jesus of Nazareth are as relevant today as they were then. To see and read these words, even for a non-Christian, is to find common sense. The writer of St John's Gospel reveals this sense, and the reason is shown as follows:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God

Jennifer

Parish of Great Casterton and Tickencote
Church of St Peter and St Paul, Great Casterton

Following the retirement of the Rev. Don McGarrigle our parish is now in a period of 'vacancy' (also known as an interregnum). During this time, all the life and worship of the Church continues under the oversight of our Churchwardens.

Churchwardens:

Peter Bryan: 07507 299436

Geoffrey Archer: 07803 423010

They are working closely with the Diocese to begin
the process of finding our new priest.

Please direct any enquiries about the Church or services:
Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals etc., directly to the Churchwardens.

Thank you.

All enquiries regarding
All Saints Little Casterton and All Saints Pickworth
During the vacancy should be directed to the Church Wardens

Little Casterton	Tony Dolby	01780 766897
Pickworth	Goldie Barnwell	01780 410272
	Charles Gilman	01780 411017

*My face in the mirror isn't wrinkled or drawn.
My house isn't dirty, the cobwebs have gone.
My garden looks lovely and so does my lawn.
I think I might never put my glasses back on.*

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Priest in Charge

Benefice Safeguarding Officer

Great Casterton Hall Bookings

Newsletter

Church Wardens:

Great Casterton

Little Casterton

Pickworth

Vacancy

Carol Maynard

Steve Cunningham

Mary Sproson

Peter Bryan

Geoffrey Archer

Tony Dolby

Charles Gilman

Goldie Barnwell

01780 755687

07810 404748

01780 762933

07507 299436

07803 423010

01780 766897

01780 411017

01780 410272

Quote of the Month

Answer from last month – Albert Einstein said “Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value.”

This month's quote: Who said this? “Better to remain silent and be thought a fool, than to speak out and remove all doubt.”

Word Challenge

How many words can you make of 3 letters or more from the word?

“Lightheartedness”

Update for Social Events Autumn 2026

- October 16th - **Quingo Quiz** - 6.30 pm –
£10pp - Bar available.
- October 17th – Saturday Live, 12.00 midday to 1.00pm
A Talk by Alan Gray “Umpiring at Wimbledon”
No charge – retiring collection.
- November 14th - **Ladies Play Reading** – ‘The Mad Professor’ - 6.30 pm
£15 pp to include light supper of baked potatoes
with choice of filling and cakes to follow.
Bar available.
- December 5th - Christmas Raffle and coffee morning.
From 10.30.with singing by Anna Taylor
Raffle to be drawn at approximately 11.30 am.
(Tickets to be available at beginning of September)

Murphy's Law?

When I take a long time ... I am slow.
When my boss takes a long time He's thorough.
When I don't do it ... I'm lazy.
When my boss doesn't do it ... he's too busy.
When I do something without being told ... I'm trying to be smart.
When my boss does the same ...that is initiative.
When I please my boss ... I'm apple-polishing.
When my boss pleases his boss ... he's co-operating.
When I do well, my boss never remembers.
When I do wrong ... he never forgets!



Have You Ever Visited?

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve

Wicken Fen Nature Reserve which is the National Trust's oldest nature reserve and England's most famous fen. One of Europe's most important wetlands, Wicken Fen supports an abundance of wildlife, with over 10,000 species recorded including dragonflies, hen harriers, water voles and bitterns.

There is a boardwalk walk over lush grassland droves allowing access to a variety of landscapes such as flowering meadows, sedge and reed-beds, and wetland grass, which is home to Highland Cattle and Konik ponies, and woodlands.

The site boasts a cafe, cycle hire, visitor centre, shop, windmill and car park. Open from 9.30 till 5.00 in the summer months it is best to check the website before traveling because opening times may vary and it is a drive of approx 1 hour and 20 mins to get there.

Prices range from £11.00 for an adult, £5.50 for a child, and £27.50 for a family ticket. The car park costs £3.50. National Trust members free.

Sue C



October Around the World

October 1st is the International Day of Older Persons.

United Nations Day falls on October 24th, and a variety of other international days fall throughout this month from World Animal Day, to World Teacher Day to World Mental Health Day amongst others. Oktoberfest runs until mid-October in Germany, Diwali is celebrated at about this time of year in India, and in New Mexico there is an international balloon fiesta held at Albuquerque.

The Phaung Daw Oo Pagoda Festival is held by Buddhists in Myanmar, and the street dance festival of MassKara is held this month in The Phillipines. The October birthstones are Opal and Tourmaline, and the official birth flowers for the month are marigold and cosmos.

Sue C

.....

“It was only a sunny smile,
and little it cost in the
giving,
but like morning light
it scattered the night
and made the day worth
living.”

~F. Scott Fitzgerald



Create nature highways and byways

Did you know hedgehogs can walk a mile or more at night looking for food and a mate, in fact many of our garden creatures need to move about freely between gardens but find their natural highways blocked by fences.

You can help wildlife by creating safe corridors from your garden to the one next door, this is great activity to do with your neighbours to connect your gardens. You can create highways or byways whenever you like but it is usually the easiest in winter when there are fewer leaves on trees and shrubs.

Looking at your space, as if you're a hedgehog or a frog, how easy would it be to make your way round the garden and in and out? Could you make access easier?

Add gaps at the base of your wooden fences. Before you start check that your neighbour is happy too and make sure any gaps won't allow pets to escape. It's also important not to create gaps that will lead wildlife onto busy roads. Create as many gaps as you want perhaps one every few metres.

If you're cutting a hole in wooden fence at ground level draw the shape you want with a pencil, an arch is the easiest shape to cut. Make it no more than about 50 cms wide and 13 cms high for larger creatures like hedgehogs or as little as 8 cms wide and 6 cms high for frogs and toads. Drill a hole inside your shape with a wood drill bit, then poke a jigsaw or saw blade through your hole. Then cut out the hole with your saw and give any rough edges a quick sand with some sandpaper.

Allow long grasses or other herbaceous plants to grow next to the gap. Voles, shrews, frogs, toads, beetles and hedgehogs like to move through long grasses rather than out in the open.

If you have bare fences or walls, adding a climber will act as a ladder for some creatures. If you have space, a line of trees or shrubs against boundaries can provide aerial corridors for wildlife. Even better, turn a fence in to a hedge, they are safe corridors, can be full of seeds and berries and are also used for nesting. Now watch wildlife use their new routes in and out of your garden, knowing that many more creatures are doing the same at night.

Read to the end...

Not everything is what it first appears to be....

Ugly Pretty

I'm very ugly
So don't try to convince me that
I am a very beautiful person
Because at the end of the day
I hate myself in every single way
And I'm not going to lie to myself by saying
There is beauty inside of me that matters
So rest assured I will remind myself
That I am a worthless, terrible person
And nothing you say will make me believe
I still deserve love
Because no matter what
I am not good enough to be loved
And I am in no position to believe that
Beauty does exist within me
Because whenever I look in the mirror I always think
Am I as ugly as people say?

(Now read bottom up)

by Abdullah Shoaib

All Saints Church - Little Casterton

All Saint's Church is one of the oldest churches in Rutland dating back to the 12th Century. Many of you have visited it, located between the Cricket Field and the River, set well back from the main road. It has many intriguing wooden carvings located up in the internal roof. It also has a lead roof which has to be specifically insured as well as the building. Ecclesiastical Insurance insist, as part of the insurance terms, that at all times the roof is protected from possible theft by installing "Roof Alarms" which detect movement in the vicinity of the external roof.

In January this year we were concerned to be informed that the current "Alarms" had failed and that spares were not available to repair them. We were faced with contacting a different Supplier, who was approved by the insurer, to see what could be done. Two Companies were approached for quotations. However, we were now looking at a total replacement alarm system, not just replacing the roof alarms.

The costs came in around £6,000. A sum that we had not budgeted for. Various Companies and Societies were approached to see if we could qualify for a Grant to help us with the unexpected bill. We were advised not to start the work until a Grant was approved. After several rejections, a Company called The Benefact Trust has agreed to fund £2,500 of the installation.

This still leaves us short in terms of paying the bill.

We are now seeking donations to help us bridge the gap. Donations may be left in the box in the church, or using the QR Code located inside the church, or using the QR Code below. Alternatively, donations may be sent to Ian Dobson, Treasurer at Little Casterton, PE9 4BE.

Many thanks. Why not pop along to have a look inside the church at the roof carvings.

Ian Dobson - Treasurer



Wildlife gardening notes

Summer is hardly over and we're already thinking about next spring. It's time to consider the very first pollinators that will be emerging after the winter they'll need food and early spring flowers are a great way to support them.

You can start planting bulbs from September onwards before the frost begins. If my queen of bees we have been affected by drought you might want to wait for a bit more rainfall before digging into your soil. Try to disturb your soil as little as possible anyway. The more we learn about the hidden mycelial works the more realise how insult these microscopic fungi are to a healthy ecosystem. Do try and source native plants from reputable sellers, avoid Spanish bluebells and instead look for wood anemone, snakes head fritillary and lesser celandine, which is one of the earliest flowers to appear. When looking at flowers, try to choose those with simple and unfussy flowers, avoiding things like double snowdrops which can be harder for pollinators to access.

Tawny owls.

If you stand in your garden in the evening, can you hear those iconic calls a faint “to wit to woo” filling the evening air. Tawny Owls start finding their voices this month as they re-establish their territory and sends this year’s chicks off into the big wide world.

Newts

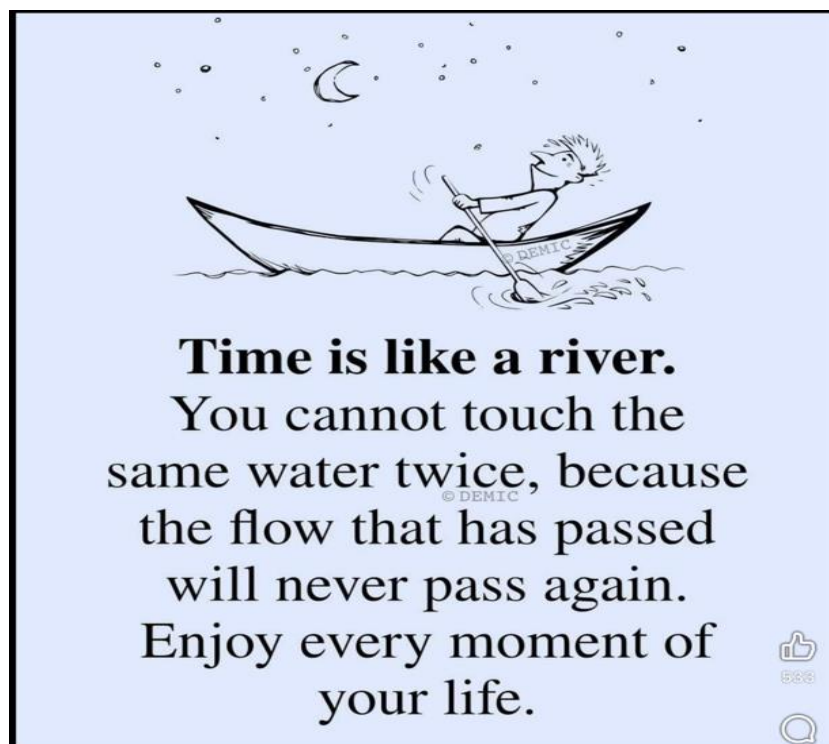
Newts are on the move this month. Newts will be vacating their ponds in search of safe sheltered spaces to spend the colder months, like log piles. If you are keen to spot one of these amazing amphibians, head out at night with a torch and watch them begin their winter preparations.

Rose Hips

Once blushing with pink, dog roses have slipped into their autumn jackets and transformed into rosehips. These vibrant berries line our hedges and garden fences providing vital food for wildlife such as fieldfares, bank voles and even larger mammals like deer and foxes.

Ten Things That Walking Does That Nothing Else Does

1. **Ten minutes after eating - it flattens the sugar rise.**
 2. **It is the only exercise most people keep doing at eighty.**
 3. **Outdoors beats a treadmill for mood, measurably.**
 4. **Uphill does more for the heart than speed does.**
 5. **It loads bones, which sitting never will.**
 6. **Morning daylight while walking sets the body clock.**
 7. **It lowers blood pressure for hours afterwards.**
 8. **Thinking improves during, not after.**
 9. **Seven thousand steps carries most of the benefit.**
 10. **Frequency beats distance, every time.**
- Follow for one health fact every day.**



Learning?

The soft approach. The Bible is not a history book, nor does it set out to be. Incidents are recorded as lessons to both the people then but more importantly, to us now. We looked recently at one of the occasions when the Israeli king was, as usual, warned of Syrian attack by the prophet Elisha. He was ready and prepared and the attacks failed. The Syrians wanted more land, so they next sent a detachment to capture Elisha but suffered blindness so severe that when the humourist Elisha meets them and explains that they must have lost their way he can lead them. Straight into the main city square. Elisha tells the king (who wanted to kill them all) to give them a good meal and send them on their way. That detachment went back North to their homes with their tails between their legs, no weapons (you try carrying a spear without sight) and no Elisha.

The fearsome approach. Sometime later the Syrians were so determined to get the land and their own way that they sent quite a large army to drive out the Israelis, who had gone back to idol worship, from their city of Samaria and surrounded the walls. Food ran desperately short so much so that some women were even contemplating killing their own children. They blamed Elisha for the famine, and his answer was that “tomorrow you can have as much flour as you want”. A city official’s reaction was that if God should “open the floodgates of heaven, should this happen?” Elisha tells him he would see it but not benefit. During the night some men with leprosy who were camping outside the gates said to each “We are going to die anyway so let’s go into the Syrian camp and beg there”. To their surprise, they found the camp deserted, so helped themselves to whatever they wanted (and hid some silver and gold) before thinking of the people in the city and shouting to the guards. That official was ordered to stand in the gate to ensure order, but the crowd was so keen to get food that he was crushed and died. The Syrians apparently had heard the sounds of an huge approaching army and panicked and run away leaving their tents, their horses and donkeys, lots of food and money. The Syrian army went back home again in humility. So the good meal treatment and then the fear/panic therapy were forgotten and something severe was required to satisfy their greed.

The hard approach. Meanwhile, the Egyptians had invaded because the Israeli people had been “unfaithful and abandoned the law of the Lord”. The Egyptians wanted to control the north/south M1 that was used to transport grain from Egypt to Rome. Despite that conquest of parts of Palestine by Egyptians, Jerusalem still stood. We read that they had “come as far as Jerusalem”. The Israelis in Samaria had not learned the lesson, went back to their old ways, and the city was taken and the Israelis were “resettled” into other countries and Samaria was lost to the nation for several hundred years. We read that they had adopted the traditions and rituals of the surrounding nations and forgotten God. Jerusalem still was held until they too forgot God and adopted local fashions. So the Assyrian army came back down in force and surrounded Jerusalem and food ran short. We are now In 740bc under Tiglath-Pileser 3. who is famed for his libraries and state records. Conditions in the city were desperate. Isaiah is the local prophet and he says the enemy will not enter the city or even shoot an arrow over the walls. He was laughed at. We read that when the people got up the next morning they found that the invaders were “all dead men”. The Bible says that a hundred and eighty five thousand bodies were counted. The Assyrian remnant went home and Jerusalem was left in relative peace until they again persisted in forgetting God and the Babylonians came and destroyed the city and temple in 597/5 BC.

Really? Now that number is rather large and we are often told that Bible stories are only good fables. The Assyrian press reports have been found recently and they tell of a glorious campaign with victories. Contemporary histories often do miss out on failures. However the army pay records have also been found and they show a shortfall of exactly one hundred and eighty five thousand soldiers for that year. Some commentators have suggested Bubonic plague. Others water pollution. Plagues were not uncommon and several have been carefully recorded. Tiglath-Pileser has left us with detailed styles and scrolls which confirm the Bible account.

Questions. Why did God allow the people in the city to suffer so badly from hunger and hopelessness before relief and assurance? Why did the Syrians keep attacking? Why did the soft approach (with the feast) or even the amusing humiliation of the temporary blindness not deter attacks? Did they really need three increasing lessons? What does the church need now to prioritise spreading the gospel over traditions and fashions? (Not to mention bright ideas) What do we really learn from these events and the way God deals with people? First things first? What are first? What does it mean to forget God? How does God teach us now? What do we know? Jesus got rid of temptations by quoting Deuteronomy from memory. I don't think I could.

Bob

PRAYER BOARD

There is a Prayer Board in Great Casterton Church for people to put prayers on for people they are worried about, illness troubles and situations they cannot see a way out of on their own, and, of course, themselves.

Please feel free to leave a prayer if you visit the church. Every request is prayed for at our Celtic PrayerS at 10.00an in the church hall meeting on Wednesday morning

Church Projects

Moving on from our heating project we are now fund raising to renew the church hall kitchen which needs updating to meet current standards. You can help by coming along to and supporting our social events where all monies raised will go towards church projects, or you can make a one off or regular donation by using our QR code.



Wordsearch

Find the listed Australian slang terms. Words can run horizontally, vertically, forwards, backwards or diagonally.

BARBIE

BLOKE

CACTUS

CORKER

CROOK

DAG

DIPSTICK

EARBASHING

FOOTY

GROUSE

HEAPS

JOEY

LOLLIES

MATILDA

OUTBACK

POSTIE

RAPT

RECKON

RIPSNORTER

SICKIE

SNAG

SPRUNG

THONGS

TOGS

TUCKER

UNI

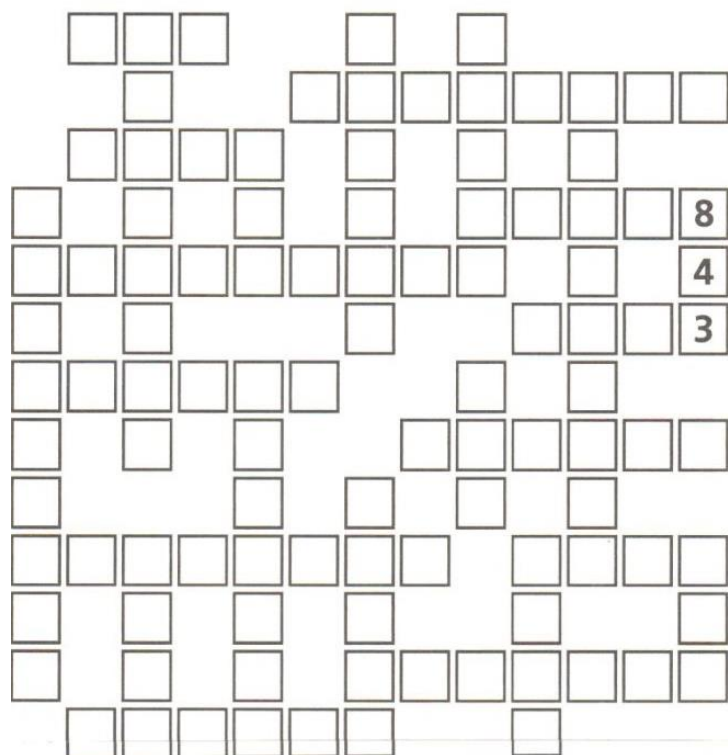
WALKABOUT

WHINGE

M	S	D	S	S	Y	T	H	O	N	G	S	R
E	A	E	P	I	W	E	K	O	L	B	I	A
G	A	A	I	H	C	C	O	F	J	P	R	P
R	E	R	I	L	I	K	G	J	S	M	E	T
H	E	N	B	T	L	N	I	N	P	T	K	M
R	G	C	S	A	U	O	O	E	O	U	C	A
E	E	P	K	R	S	R	L	D	S	O	U	T
N	I	K	P	O	T	H	F	G	T	B	T	I
D	B	S	R	E	N	O	I	A	I	A	C	L
T	R	Y	R	O	O	E	D	N	E	K	R	D
O	A	S	U	T	C	A	C	S	G	L	O	A
G	B	N	Y	G	R	O	U	S	E	A	O	L
S	I	K	C	A	B	T	U	O	M	W	K	N

Number Fit

Can you fit the listed digits into the grid?



3 digits

217

314

328

843

981

4 digits

1403

2380

3713

8363

8889

5 digits

15396

62187

97138

6 digits

130471

514121

713612

904487

7 digits

7352384

8566661

8 digits

23764501

66262523

91652626

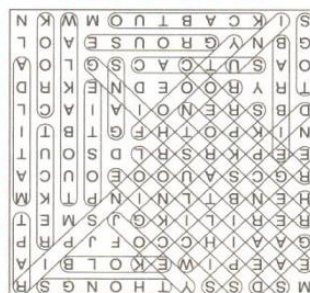
9 digits

362178681

621448648

664544266

Solutions Wordsearch



Number Fit



The real luxuries:



a good
night's sleep



slow
mornings



freedom to
choose



listening to
bird singing



long walks



favorite home
cooked meal



a good
conversation



a healthy
body and mind



loving
family

Recipe Page

Caramel Shortbread

6 ozs Plain Flour
2 ozs Caster Sugar
6ozs Butter
2oz Soft Brown Sugar
1 large Can Condensed Milk
4 ozs Plain Chocolate



Sift Flour, add sugar and rub in 4oz of the butter until mixture resembles crumbs.

Press evenly into a Swiss roll tin (11.5 ins by 7.5 ins).

Bake in a pre heated oven, mark 3 (fan 140 or 160c) for 30 minutes until just coloured. Allow to cool in the tin.

Heat the remaining butter and soft brown sugar. Stir in the condensed milk and heat gently until the sugar dissolves. Bring to the boil and cook stirring continuously until the caramel mixture is a creamy fudge colour. Pour over the shortbread and spread evenly. Leave to cool.

Melt the chocolate and pour over the caramel. Tap the tin on a hard surface to level the chocolate, Leave to set. Cut into fingers when set.

Microwave Sponge Pudding – for when you need a quick dessert

170g Unsalted Butter	1.5 teasp baking powder
170g Caster Sugar	3 Eggs
150g plain Flour	1 teasp Vanilla extract

Put all ingredients into a large greased bowl, beat together with wooden spoon or hand mixer. When smooth put into microwave for about 6 mins (600watts- less in a higher watt microwave). Stand for 2 mins before turning sponge out onto a plate. Add syrup or topping of your choice. You can also add extras to the mix such as lemon or other flavouring.

I'm 80 Years Old – And Here's What I'm Grateful For

I turned 80 today, and instead of feeling sad about getting older, I feel grateful.

1. I'm still here.

Every day I'm given is a gift, and I don't take it for granted.

2. My mind is still strong.

I'm thankful that I can still think clearly and remember the things that matter.

3. I can still care for myself.

Being independent at this age is something I deeply appreciate.

4. I still have a purpose.

I have things to do, people to encourage, and wisdom to share.

5. I am surrounded by love.

My family, my friends, and my community remind me that I matter.

6. I have a lifetime of memories.

Eighty years have given me stories, experiences, and lessons I'll always carry.

7. I no longer live to please others.

I've learned to let go of worrying about what people think of me.

8. I have become wiser.

The mistakes, challenges, and hard seasons of life taught me valuable lessons.

9. I'm still learning.

Getting older doesn't mean I have to stop growing, discovering, or becoming better.

10. I'm grateful to have reached 80.

Growing old is not something to be ashamed of. It's a privilege I'm thankful for every single day.

Turning 80 isn't a limitation. It's a milestone. It's an achievement. And it's worth celebrating.

Golden Journey 🌟

Wishing all of our congregation who joined the club this year every blessing for the future. May it be a long and happy one.

Have you ever considered advertising here?

Do you have a small business, offer a service or run a club, then why not advertise here at very reasonable rates.

For more information please contact
Mary Sproson – email: stpeter.stpaul@outlook.com




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- To promote healthy ageing and attitudes towards older people, seeking relevant ways to honour old age and if needed, to serve through advocacy, friendship and practical support.



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FOR HIRE

Great Casterton church hall is available for hire for children's parties, meetings, talks and other events. For more details contact

Steve Cunningham

Email: stephenmichaelcunningham@gmail.com

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